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Items for information: Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session,** the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission, for information, the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

* E/CN.3/2010/1.

** See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 4* (E/2009/24), chap. I.A.

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Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

Background

1. The Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics, commonly known as the "Delhi Group", was set up in 1997 as one of the city groups of the United Nations Statistical Commission to address various methodological issues involved in the treatment of the informal sector. The Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, is the Chairman of the Group. A short report of the Group was submitted to the Statistical Commission for information at its thirty-ninth session. A summary of the meetings of the Group is given below.

Tenth meeting of the Delhi Group, 2007

2. The tenth meeting of the Delhi Group was organized and hosted by the International Labour Organization from 8 to 10 October 2007 in Geneva. The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

(a) Manual on surveys of informal sector and informal employment: Progress report;

(b) Discussions on draft chapters 1 to 5 and 10 of the manual:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Concepts, definitions and sub-classification
- Chapter 3: Measurement objectives and data-collection strategies
- Chapter 4: Household surveys on informal sector employment and other types of informal employment
- Chapter 5: Informal sector establishment surveys
- Chapter 10: Use of data for the preparation of national accounts: Labour input matrices and the production approach

(c) Draft chapter 24 on the informal sector of the updated *System of National Accounts*;[1]

(d) Alternate aggregation for the informal sector in the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.4 (ISIC, Rev.4).

3. There were extensive deliberations on the papers considered under the agenda items. The participants, while approving the broad outline of the draft chapters and other agenda papers, suggested some changes in terms of their content and structure.

4. The team of contributors that is drafting the manual on surveys of informal sector and informal employment will suitably revise the draft chapters considered in the tenth meeting of the Delhi Group and prepare the draft of the other four chapters

[1] This chapter has since been finalized as chapter 25, "Informal aspects of the economy", of the *System of National Accounts 2008* (2008, SNA).

of the manual, namely, chapters 6 to 9, and the complete manual will be placed before the Delhi Group at its eleventh meeting.

Eleventh meeting of the Delhi Group, 2010

5. The eleventh meeting of the Delhi Group is proposed to be held in January 2010 in Geneva. The draft manual on informal sector and informal employment and the future activities of the Group are planned to be discussed at the meeting.

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